

Useful website addresses

St Barnabas Cathedral is live streaming Mass at 1 pm Monday-Friday and Sunday at 10 am. These services are also recorded.

A retreat service is attached for individual prayer for parishioners, which can be forwarded by email to those already on your list - downloadable at: <http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/Flu/index.shtml> along with other prayer services.

Mass is streamed at 9.00am every Sunday on YouTube from **St. Thomas More Church**, Knighton. You can use either of the following ways to join the Mass - Go to YouTube and search for "Saint Thomas More Leicester" and the page will appear.

Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham <http://www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream>.

The TV channel EWTN also has a daily Mass as well as a large number of resources to keep us spiritually nourished over the coming weeks www.ewtn.com

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en.html> listen to podcast Sunday gospel truth.

www.cbcew.org.uk/home/news-and-media/news/ www.heavensroadfm.com/listen-now/

Father George is offering Holy Mass from Mother of God Church Presbytery chapel through live stream during lockdown days. Available at <http://Facebook.com/gchelackal> <http://motherofgodleicester.co.uk>

Prayer to Mary during Coronavirus Pandemic

O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.

You, Salvation of Your People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God.

Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.
Amen

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|  | <p>Mother of God Greencoat Road Leicester LE3 6NZ</p> <p>☎(0116) 287 5232 ✉mogparish@gmail.com www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk</p> <p>NRCDT- Registered Charity</p> | <p>Parish Priest: Fr. George Thomas gchelackal@gmail.com www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk</p>  |
| <p>Our Schools: Christ the King Primary - 0116 2857261 - www.ctlk.org/p_Home.ikml English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - www.emschool.co.uk/</p> | | |
|  | <p>21st Sunday in Ordinary Time</p> <p>23rd – 30th August 2020</p> | |

**Mother of God Church, Leicester
LE3 6NZ**

Till further notice church is open for liturgical services on
Saturdays and Sundays.

Book online to avail yourself seats  <https://massbooking.uk/parish.php?p=868>
20 family pews and **15** individual seats are available.

 <http://Facebook.com/gchelackal>
<http://motherofgodleicester.co.uk>

Kindly note the new mass timings: Saturdays 10:00 am English Mass
04:00 pm Malayalam Mass
Sundays. 10:30 am English Mass
04:00 pm Malayalam Mass

→ Please book individual seats if only 1 or 2 are coming for the mass otherwise book a pew.
→ Book a pew and individual seats separately.
→ While booking a pew, you are required to enter how many from the family will be attending the mass.

In church, please wear face masks at all times.

**Fr. George Thomas,
Parish Priest,
Mother of God Church**

Feasts of the week:

Monday, St. Bartholomew, Apostle. Friday, St. Augustine, Bishop.
Saturday, The Beheading of St. John the Baptist.

Pope Francis August Intentions: The Maritime World. We pray for all those who work and live from the sea, among them sailors, fishermen and their families.

Readings and Gospel for Sunday 23rd August

1st Reading - Isaiah 22:19-23

Thus says the LORD to Shebna, master of the palace: "I will thrust you from your office and pull you down from your station. On that day I will summon my servant Eliakim, son of Hilkiah; I will clothe him with your robe, and gird him with your sash, and give over to him your authority. He shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to the house of Judah. I will place the key of the House of David on Eliakim's shoulder; when he opens, no one shall shut when he shuts, no one shall open. I will fix him like a peg in a sure spot, to be a place of honor for his family."

Responsorial Psalm - Psalms 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8

R. Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with all my heart, for you have heard the words of my mouth; in the presence of the angels I will sing your praise; I will worship at your holy temple. **R.**

I will give thanks to your name, because of your kindness and your truth: When I called, you answered me; you built up strength within me. **R.**

The LORD is exalted, yet the lowly he sees, and the proud he knows from afar. Your kindness, O LORD, endures forever; forsake not the work of your hands. **R.**

2nd Reading - Romans 11:33-36

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How inscrutable are his judgments and how unsearchable his ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord or who has been his counselor? Or who has given the Lord anything that he may be repaid? For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen

Gospel - Matthew 16:13-20

Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi and he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.

I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Then he strictly ordered his disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

An Act of Spiritual Communion can help us and the priests we see online celebrating Mass in empty Churches frequently encourage us to ask for Our Lord's guidance by offering prayers like this one written by St. Alphonsus Liguori in the 18th century. It seems particularly appropriate at this time.

My Jesus,

I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.

Let's stay connected to each other! Community Help: Apologies, but we are not allowed to do anything collectively as a parish. It has been suggested by the diocese that anyone wanting to help should contact the government led initiatives in their area. Leicester City Council - Contact and Response Team if needed. Telephone 0116 454 1004 or email: contact-response@leicester.gov.uk. VAL (Voluntary Action Leicestershire) - visit <https://www.volunteerleicestershire.org.uk/> 0116 257 5050.

Coronavirus Information for Leicestershire:

<https://www.leicestershirecommunities.org.uk/coronavirusinformation.html>

This week we pray especially for all the people of Leicester, for all the sick and housebound people of the parish. We also pray for our NHS Staff, the cleaners, the supermarket workers and all the people who are supplying us with food during this period and everyone who is keeping the country going during the lockdown. Let also pray for each other.

CAFOD APPEAL: Beirut explosions. Let's pray for the people of Beirut. On 4 August two explosions ripped through Lebanon's capital, Beirut, killing over 100 people and leaving more than 4,000 injured. Rescue workers are still searching for many more missing people. Lebanon is a small country, half the size of Wales, struggling to host well over a million Syrian refugees on top of more than 400,000 Palestinian refugees already living in the country - and despite high levels of poverty and unemployment among its own population. [Support CAFOD's Beirut Explosion appeal](#)

300 Club Results: 16th August £50 U Nyjwu (44). £25 R Hughes (231), B Hickinbotham (39).

Online Primary School Tuition: I am a parishioner and Eucharistic minister at Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Mickleover. I have recently left a teaching position at a catholic school in Tamworth due to the Covid 19 crisis. My elderly Mum, who is 91, lives with me and I feel that it is quite high risk coming in from school at the current time. For this reason, I am tutoring **ONLINE ONLY**. I can offer primary age children tuition and I am available every evening and Saturdays until 1pm. Please see my website www.topteachingtuition.co.uk for more details.

Additional Information on the re-opening of our church.

A team of volunteers have thoroughly cleaned the church. Hand sanitiser will be available for everyone to use. Face masks will be compulsory. There will be no singing, no kneeling; only standing and sitting. Mass sheets will be available which must be taken home.

We are opening Mother of God church for worship on Saturdays and Sundays only. In these current circumstances all individuals attending mass should adhere to the rules and regulations of the government and the guidelines of Nottingham diocese. Father George would like to bring to your attention, the following instructions:

1. Individuals and families will be allowed to attend the mass only if they book through the online <https://massbooking.uk/parish.php?p=868>. To do the booking first you need to Sign up (right top corner button) and you will receive a confirmation email which you need to confirm by opening your email. If you are booking as a family please enter 1 (in Family Pews).
2. No admittance to the sacristy. If you wish to meet the parish priest, he can meet you at the altar, after the mass.
3. Confessions will be available after the mass. Please follow the directions.
4. Kindly stretch your hands to receive the Holy Eucharist and the priest will place the Eucharist to avoid direct contact.
5. If you are having symptoms of COVID-19 or having a fever and cold please avoid coming to mass and make sure you cancel your booking(s). Please note that the stewards will be doing thermal scanning, on arrival.
6. Please vacate the premises immediately after the mass is over.

A Message from Father George: Following a good response that we received from the church attendees, we are pleased to inform you that the Diocese of Nottingham has kindly agreed to increase the capacity of the church from 70 to 95. So now there are 20 pews and 15 individual seats available for booking, which must be done via the following link <https://massbooking.uk/parish.php?p=868>. Please book individual seats if only 1 or 2 are attending, otherwise book a pew. While booking a pew, kindly enter the number of attendees so that we could pre-allocate appropriate benches for you. Kindly adhere to the instructions from the stewards. They are there to help you.

Lockdown in UK parishes: CAFOD's support: Through our network of volunteers, young CAFOD leaders and our staff, we are keen to support, in whatever way possible, the opening up of churches. We are offering various online resources to help your parishioners and schools to pray and to engage: our online [children's liturgy](#), our programme of [online talks](#), [prayer and Masses](#) our [Summer of Hope](#) ideas for families and parishioners to transform lockdown and cancelled summer events or things they've been missing into some fun fundraising and easy ways to brighten up lockdown

Churches Together in Leicestershire

**A PRAYER FOR THOSE WITHIN THE LEICESTER LOCKDOWN ZONE
offered by the Church Leaders of Churches Together
in Leicester and Leicestershire**

Loving God, ever-present with your people
through the highs and lows of life, we cry out to you for Leicester
in the face of prolonged suffering and hardship as a result of lockdown.
Grant us peace in our frustration; strength to our NHS
and all who are called to care and help; wisdom to our city leaders;
and discernment for our churches in offering the medicine of your gospel.
Bless all caught in the grip of Covid-19 and comfort the grieving.
In the name of the One who gives us hope, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Parish Finances

A letter from the Diocesan Finance Secretary has been received by all parishes in the Diocese. The letter has been sensitively written, aware and empathising with many Parishioners, whose jobs may not be there for them, and the resulting consequences for many in the future. He also writes about Parish income at this time, with our Church doors closed and no public services, no Masses on Sundays, no Parish income.

He is fully aware that Churches and Church property has to be maintained, that bills will have to be paid etc. etc., and all this despite no regular parish income at this time. He realises that many parishes may struggle.

He has suggested that perhaps Parishioners, who are regular givers to the Church plate, either by weekly envelope or by cash directly into the Collection basket, might consider, if they are in a position to do so, of paying by direct debit from their bank account. This would ensure a continuous income for the parish on a weekly basis, and would help to alleviate the current financial income for the Parish.

For those who might like to do so, or to consider that possibility.

**Our Account Name: MOTHER OF GOD LEICESTER RCP -
Account number: 01538822 - Sort code: 30-94-97.**

Please include your name as a reference so that we know where the funds have come from and what they are for. Thank you for your attention and consideration to this possibility.

**Thank you to all those who have changed to a standing order!
Your support is very much appreciated**